REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 35, 42 and 43 to recite that the copolymer "has added thereon a bifunctional monomer" having the pendent polymerizable functional groups, and that the functional groups on the comonomer are "polymerizable" and are reactive with the polymerizable functional groups "on the bifunctional monomer." Support for the amendatory language is set forth on page 11, lines 29-31 ("added onto"), and on page 10, lines 1-31 (both for the language that the "copolymer has added thereon a bifunctional monomer..."), and pages 10-11, (defining the comonomer as having at least one "polymerizable" functional group). Claims 13-16 have been amended for consistency. See page 10 of the specification.

Newly added claim 43, which further defines the composition of claim 1 in terms that the copolymer comprises said comonomer, is supported by the disclosure on page 10, lines 33-34 (i.e., that the comonomer does not have to be contained in the composition as an element of the copolymer), and in examples 12 and 13 (which show preparation of terpolymers wherein the comonomers methacryloyl glutamic acid and glycidyl methacrylate respectively are integrated into the terpolymer backbone).

Accordingly, no new matter is contained in these amendments.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which he may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 18, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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